

THE
PEW
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Evidence-Based Policymaking

The Shape of Things to Come

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The Policy Challenge

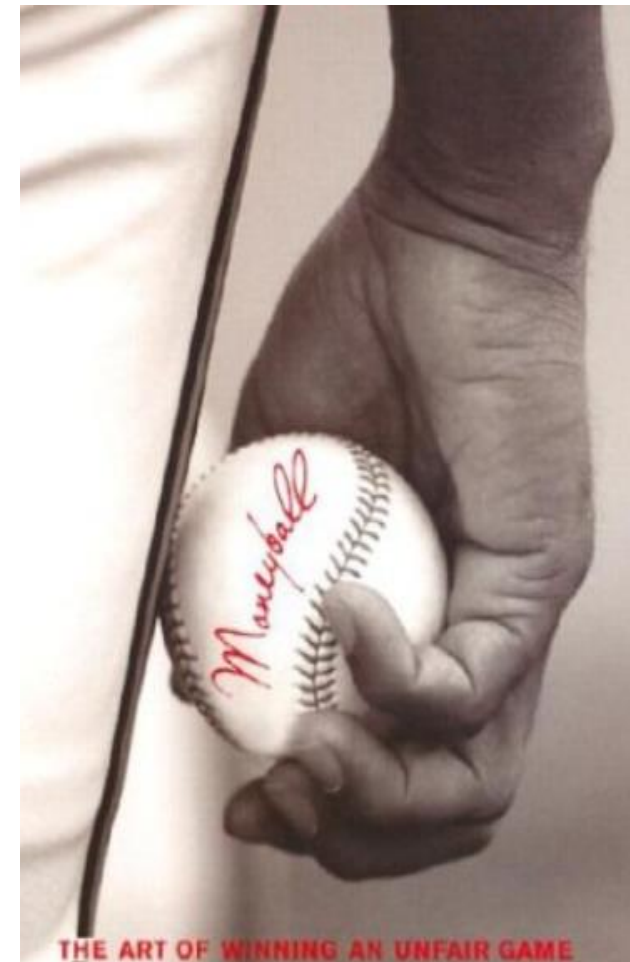
- We spend money to address problems, often without achieving the outcomes we desire
- Why?
 - Politics?
 - We aren't spending enough?
 - Nothing works?

The Policy Challenge

- While leaders want to making strategic choices, budgets are often based on inertia
 - Shortfalls typically result in across-the-board cuts
 - Surpluses typically result in distributing funds using COLAs

The Solution

- Bring evidence into the process
 - Target funds using rigorous evidence
 - Stop funding programs that don't work
 - Ensure programs are effectively implemented
- Achieve dramatic improvements without spending more money



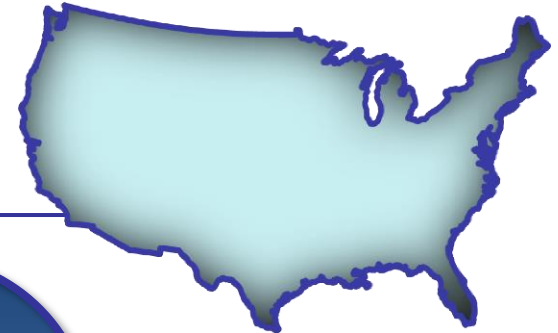
THE ART OF WINNING AN UNFAIR GAME

National efforts to identify ‘What Works’

- DOE “What Works” Clearinghouse
- Rand Promising Practices Network
- Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development
- DOJ CrimeSolutions.gov
- Cochran Collaborative
- Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Results First Approach

1 Use the best **national research** to identify what works



2 Predict **impact** in your state



3 Calculate long-term **costs** and **benefits**

COST
BENEFIT

A cost-benefit analysis approach

- Widely used in the private sector
- Long-standing approach to policy analysis

Goal: Assess investment options to find most efficient way to achieve policy goals



Focuses on three key questions

- 1** What does it cost to achieve a goal (e.g., reducing crime)?
- 2** What is achieving that goal worth (for taxpayers and citizens)?
- 3** How do alternative ways to achieve that goal compare as investments?

Assess full costs and benefits of outcomes

- Taxpayers (i.e., policies and services that respond to crime)
- Society (i.e., victimization)



Full taxpayer costs



- Police
- State Attorney/Public Defender
- Courts
- Diversion programs
- Local jail
- State prison
- Programs
(education/rehabilitation)
- Post prison supervision

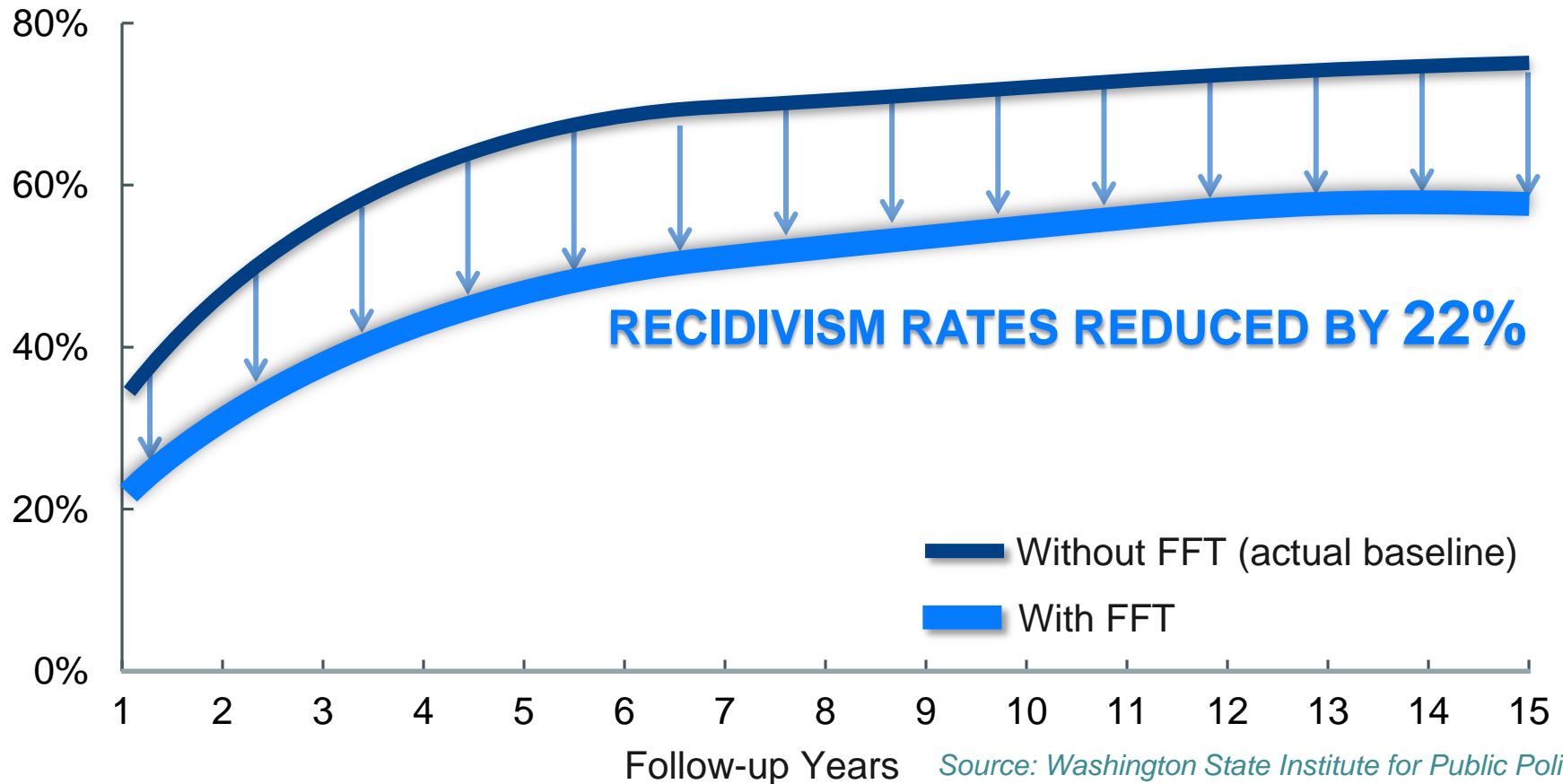
Full societal costs

- Nationwide studies estimate costs incurred by crime victims
 - **Tangible costs**
(e.g., lost wages, health care)
 - **Intangible costs**
(e.g., pain and suffering)
- Estimates based on medical records, insurance claims, and court judgments
- Controversial, but critical



Meta-analysis of Functional Family Therapy

Recidivism Rate



Monetize predicted outcomes

Taxpayer benefits (avoided costs)

- Costs per felony conviction
- Convictions avoided per participant
- Other benefits

Victimization benefits (avoided costs)

- Victimizations avoided per participant

Functional Family Therapy

BENEFITS PER FAMILY	WA STATE 2010 DOLLARS	MAIN SOURCE OF BENEFITS
Reduced crime		Lower state & victim costs
Increased high school graduation		Increased earnings
Reduced health care costs		Lower public costs
Total Benefits Per Family		

Cost Per Family

\$3,190

Functional Family Therapy

BENEFITS PER FAMILY	WA STATE 2010 DOLLARS	MAIN SOURCE OF BENEFITS
Reduced crime	\$31,745	Lower state & victim costs
Increased high school graduation	\$5,686	Increased earnings
Reduced health care costs	\$307	Lower public costs
Total Benefits Per Family	\$37,739	

Cost Per Family

\$3,190

Functional Family Therapy

BENEFITS PER FAMILY	WA STATE 2010 DOLLARS	MAIN SOURCE OF BENEFITS
Reduced crime	\$31,745	Lower state & victim costs
Increased high school graduation	\$5,686	Increased earnings
Reduced health care costs	\$307	Lower public costs
Total Benefits Per Family	\$37,739	

Cost Per Family

\$3,190

Net Present Value	\$34,549	
Benefits Per Dollar of Cost	\$11.86	

Cost-benefit of Nurse Family Partnership

BENEFITS PER FAMILY	WA STATE 2010 DOLLARS	MAIN SOURCE OF BENEFITS
Reduced crime & abuse	\$6,611	Lower state & victim costs
Educational gains	\$17,770	Increased earnings
Reduced public assistance costs	\$5,944	Lower public costs
Total Benefits Per Family	\$30,325	

Cost Per Family **\$9,421**

Net Present Value	\$20,904	
Benefits Per Dollar of Cost	\$3.23	

Analyze program portfolios

POLICY/PROGRAM

Intensive supervision (only)

Mental health court

Community drug treatment

Correctional education in prison

Work release

Cognitive behavioral therapy

Community job training & aid

JUVENILE PROGRAMS

Functional Family Therapy

Aggression replacement training

Coordination of services

Scared Straight

**Washington State 2012 dollars*

Analyze program costs

POLICY/PROGRAM	COST
Intensive supervision (only)	\$4,140
Mental health court	\$2,935
Community drug treatment	\$1,602
Correctional education in prison	\$1,128
Work release	\$661
Cognitive behavioral therapy	\$412
Community job training & aid	\$135
JUVENILE PROGRAMS	
Functional Family Therapy	\$3,262
Aggression replacement training	\$1,508
Coordination of services	\$395
Scared Straight	\$65

**Washington State 2012 dollars*

Identify program benefits

POLICY/PROGRAM	COST	LONG-TERM BENEFITS
Intensive supervision (only)	\$4,140	-\$578
Mental health court	\$2,935	\$20,424
Community drug treatment	\$1,602	\$17,711
Correctional education in prison	\$1,128	\$21,426
Work release	\$661	\$7,117
Cognitive behavioral therapy	\$412	\$9,695
Community job training & aid	\$135	\$5,501
JUVENILE PROGRAMS		
Functional Family Therapy	\$3,262	\$70,370
Aggression replacement training	\$1,508	\$62,947
Coordination of services	\$395	\$5,501
Scared Straight	\$65	-\$4,949

**Washington State 2012 dollars*

Compare costs and benefits

POLICY/PROGRAM	COST	LONG-TERM BENEFITS	COST/BENEFIT RATIO
Intensive supervision (only)	\$4,140	-\$578	-\$0.14
Mental health court	\$2,935	\$20,424	\$6.96
Community drug treatment	\$1,602	\$17,711	\$11.05
Correctional education in prison	\$1,128	\$21,426	\$19.00
Work release	\$661	\$7,117	\$10.77
Cognitive behavioral therapy	\$412	\$9,695	\$23.55
Community job training & aid	\$135	\$5,501	\$40.76
JUVENILE PROGRAMS			
Functional Family Therapy	\$3,262	\$70,370	\$21.57
Aggression replacement training	\$1,508	\$62,947	\$41.75
Coordination of services	\$395	\$5,501	\$13.94
Scared Straight	\$65	-\$4,949	-\$76.35

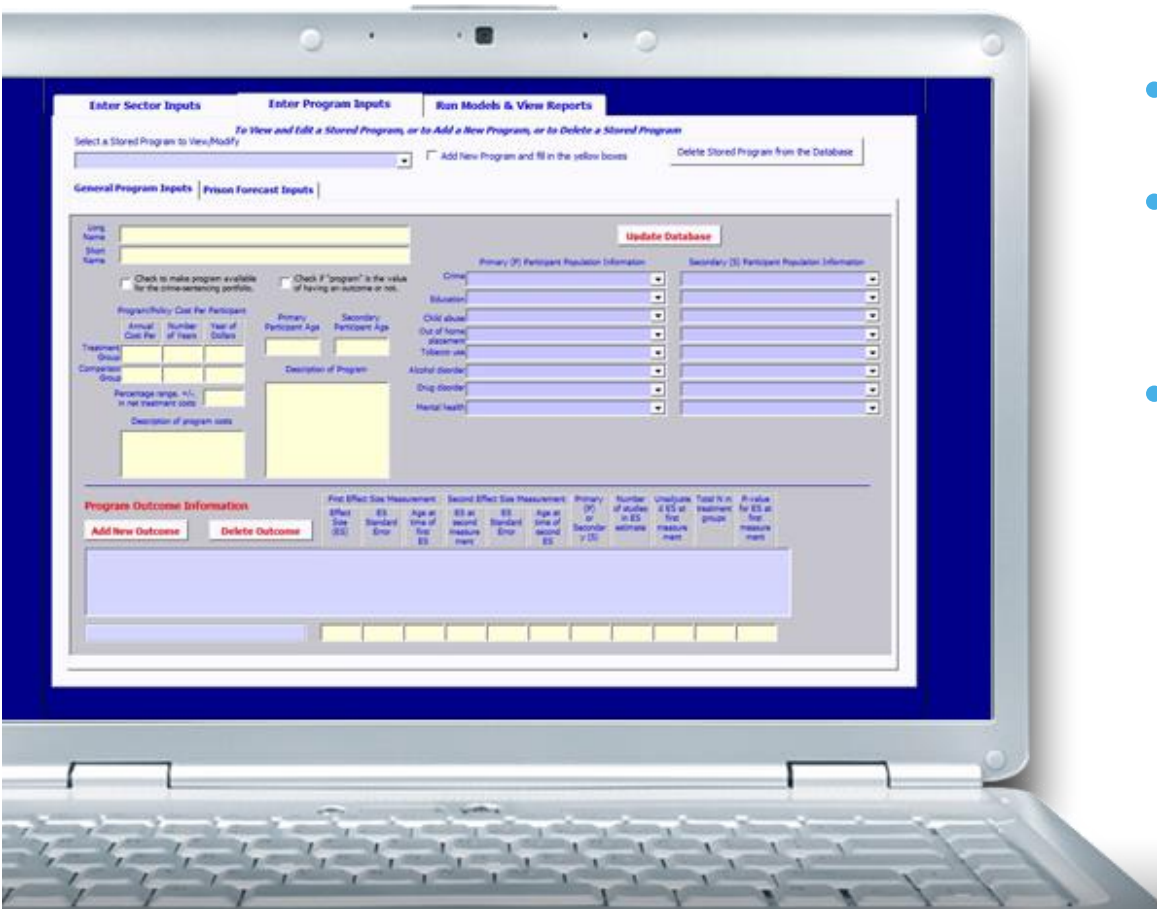
**Washington State 2012 dollars*

Approach can be used to analyze many areas



**Washington State 2012 dollars*

Services Provided by Results First



- Provide software
- Train staff in the approach
- Provide ongoing technical assistance

Additional Services Provided by Results First



- Help interpret results for policy makers
- Compile and share lessons learned with other participating states
- Expand and update model
- All services free of charge

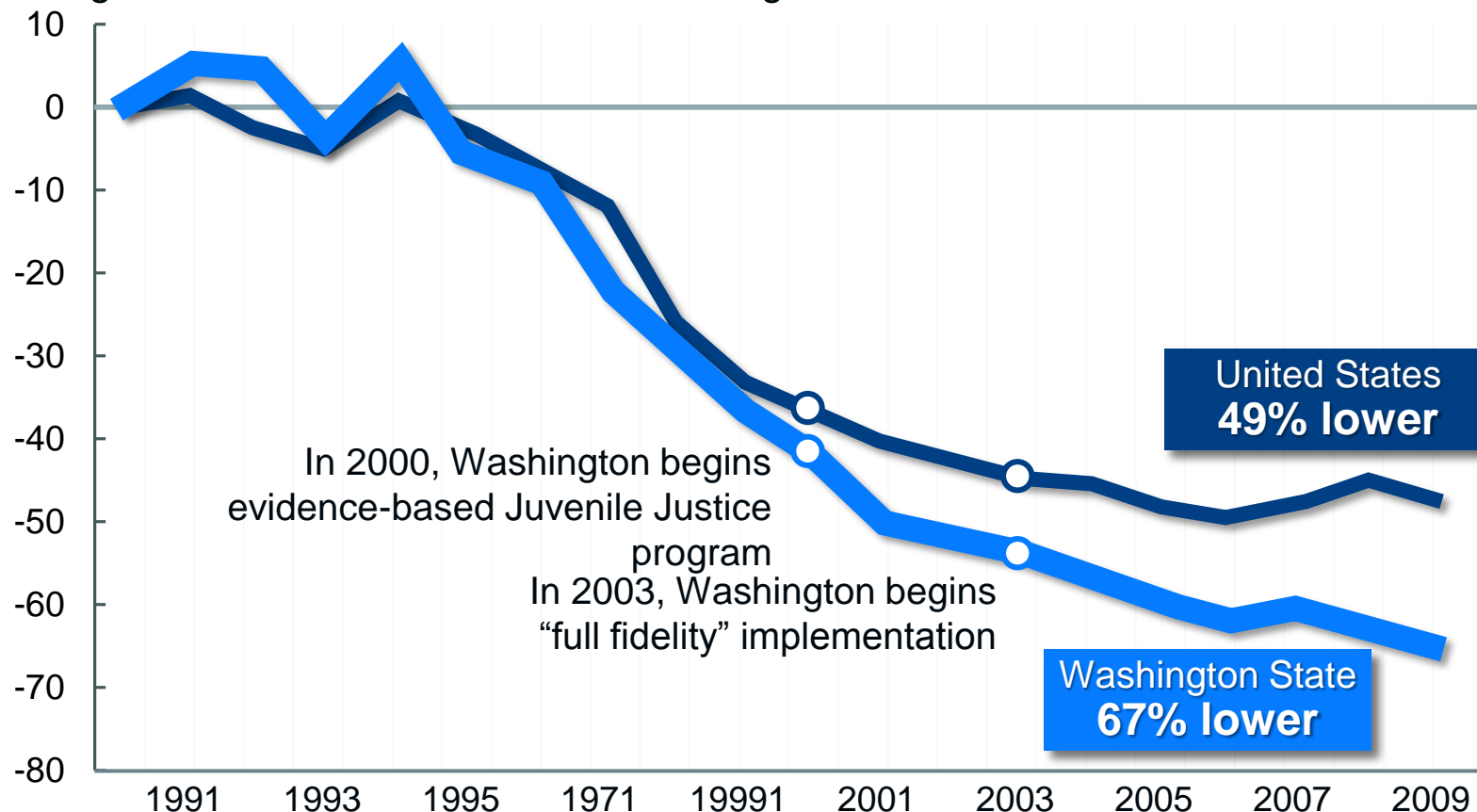
Washington's long-term success

- 15+ years of using approach to help steer budget decisions
- Have achieved better outcomes at lower costs

LOWERED CRIME RATE and achieved
\$2.7 BILLION in higher long-term benefits

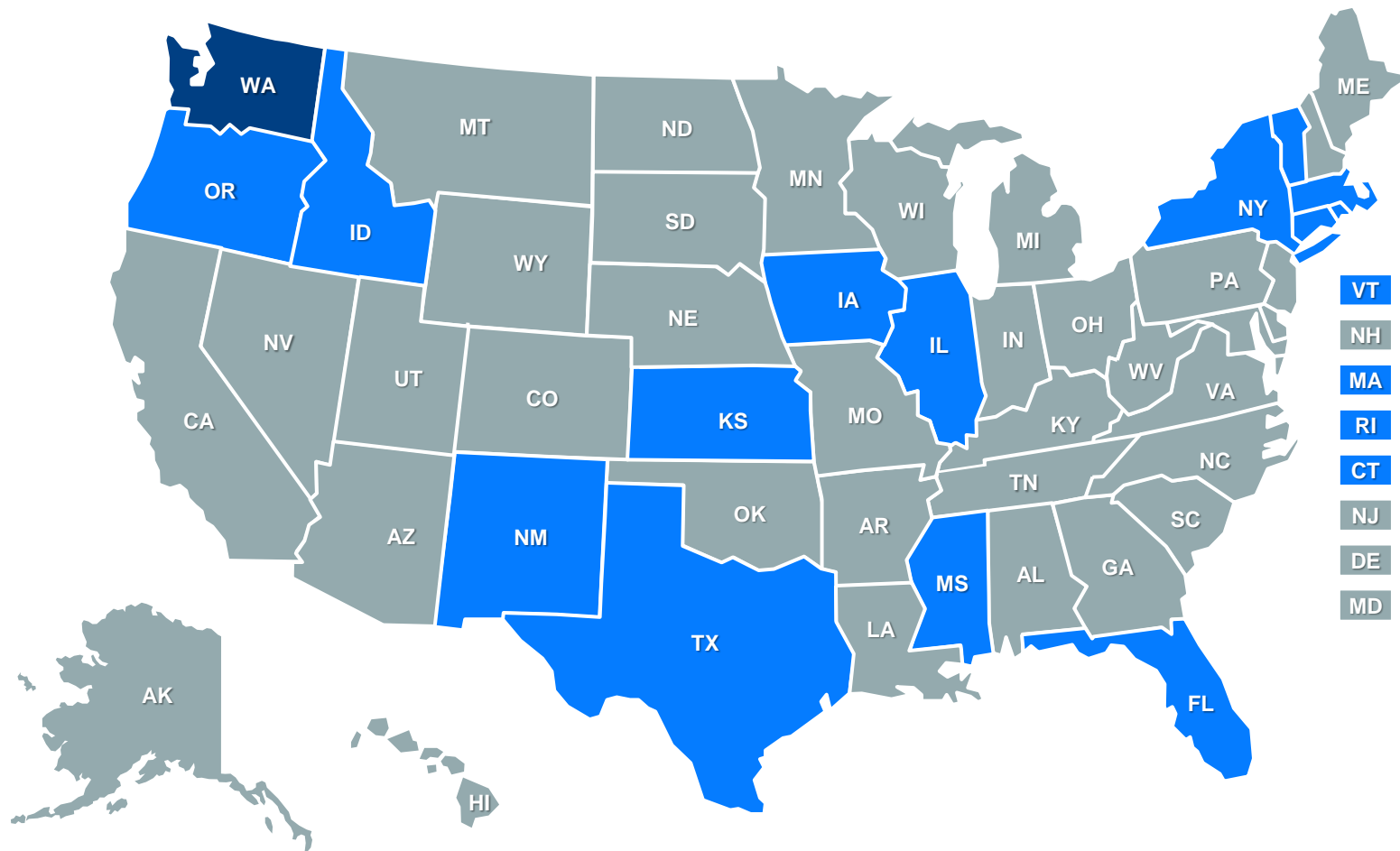
Juvenile crime reduction benefits

Change since 1990 in the U.S. and Washington State



Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Participation in Results First



Mississippi

- Legislative branch leads initiative with strong leadership support
- Will release initial report in fall
- Using approach to re-energize state's performance budgeting system
- Assessing criminal justice and education programs



Iowa

- Executive branch leads initiative
- Found domestic violence treatment program was ineffective; replaced to achieve higher ROI
- Using model to analyze sentencing reform proposals
- Expanding model to include juvenile justice programs



New York

- Division of Criminal Justice Services
- Used model to develop Governor's budget; referenced in 2013 State of the State
- Restructuring *Alternatives to Incarceration* funds to prioritize cost-effective programs



We CAN radically improve government by

Using Evidence

- Fund programs that are proven to work (and cut those that don't)

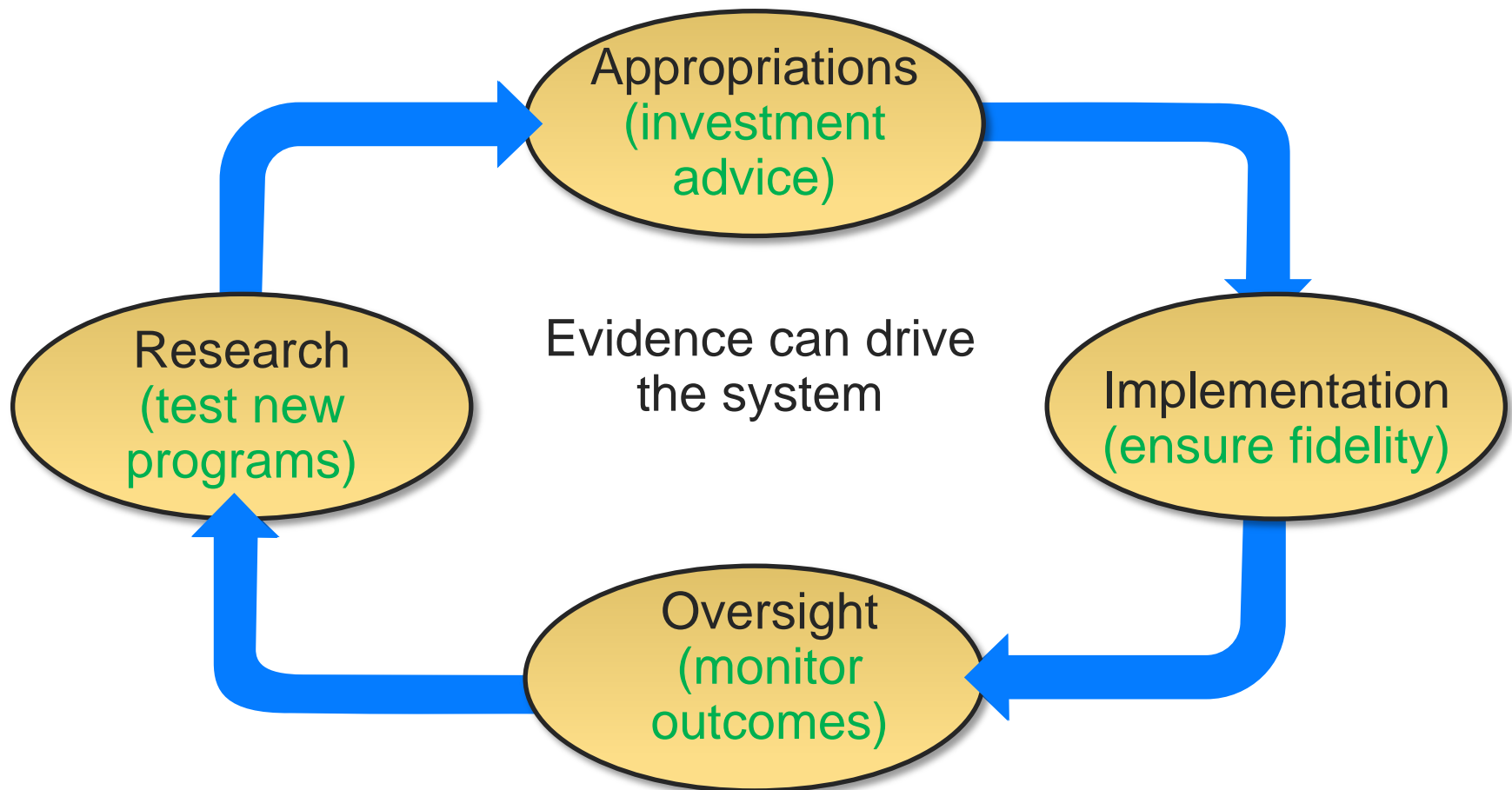
Ensuring Program Quality

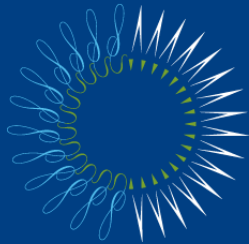
- Programs must be properly implemented
- Must target the right people

Tracking Results

- Compare outcomes to predictions
- Require new programs to prove success

We CAN approach policymaking systematically





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www.pewstates.org/ResultsFirst